

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.) No. 11-1-07742-6 SEA
)
 RONALD WAYNE MACDONALD,) INFORMATION
)
)
)
)
 Defendant.)

That the defendant RONALD WAYNE MACDONALD in King County, Washington, on or about October 27, 1978, while committing and attempting to commit the crime of Burglary in the First Degree, Robbery in the First Degree, and Robbery in the Second Degree, and in the course of and in furtherance of said crime and in the immediate flight therefrom, and with premeditated intent to cause the death of another person, did cause the death of Arlene Roberts, a human being, who was not a participant in the crime, and who died on or about October 27, 1978;

By: K Richardson
Kristin V. Richardson, WSBA #19042
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Daniel T. Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney
W554 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104
(206) 296-9000, FAX (206) 296-0955

ORIGINAL

CAUSE NO. 11-1-07742-6SEA

CERTIFICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE

That Scott Tompkins is a(n) Detective with the King County Sheriff's Office and has reviewed the investigation conducted in the King County Sheriff's case number(s) 78-177794;

There is probable cause to believe that Ronald Wayne MacDonald committed the crime(s) of Murder in the First Degree. This belief is predicated on the following facts and circumstances:

In 1978 Arlene D. Roberts was 80 years old. She was a widow who lived alone in a small travel trailer in the Lakeshore Manor Mobile Home Park located at 11448 Rainier Ave South, King County, Washington.

Mrs. Roberts was known to several of her neighbors and interacted with them on a daily basis. On October 27th 1978, after not seeing Arlene with her normal routine, her neighbors went to check on her. When they found her trailer ransacked they called the Sheriff's Office to do a welfare check. When the officers arrived they located Arlene Roberts deceased on her bed.

A crime scene was established and an investigation began.

Arlene Roberts was found in the following condition: She was on her bed face up and was covered by a blanket. Her head had been covered with a pillow. Although there was no later evidence of a sexual assault, her blouse was unbuttoned and open and she was naked from the waist down. Mrs. Roberts had a garment tied around her mouth, and her wrist and ankles were bound with nylon stockings used for bindings. Around her neck was a ligature fashioned from a hair net.

On October 28th, 1978 an autopsy was performed on Mrs. Roberts by the King County Medical Examiner's Office. Cause of death was determined to be Asphyxiation Due To Strangulation. She also had been beaten in the head and had a dislocated shoulder, possibly from the force of hog-tying her hands behind her back. The case was listed as a homicide.

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Prosecuting Attorney
W 554 King County Courthouse
Seattle, Washington 98104-2312
(206) 296-9000

1 Arlene Roberts had moved into the trailer two days before she was killed. At
2 that time, a neighbor who helped her move noted that when they finished,
3 everything appeared to be in its place. When Mrs. Roberts' body was found
4 however, her trailer had been ransacked. Drawers were open, items
5 overturned, and the victim's wallet gone through. Her purse was missing as
6 was a diamond ring she always wore. While processing the crime scene
7 detectives collected several items of evidence for latent fingerprint
8 examination including miscellaneous papers that had been ransacked and left
9 on the floor of the trailer next to the bed where Mrs. Roberts' body was
10 found. These papers included a bank statement dated Oct 5th (21 days before
11 the murder) a bank receipt dated Oct 11 (16 days before the murder) and
12 Traveler's Checks from First Federal Savings and Loan Association.

13 The original investigating detectives focused on the victim's contacts and
14 whereabouts in the time leading up to her death. Several subjects were
15 looked at, but a suspect was never developed and the case went inactive.

16 In the early fall of 2010, I reviewed the case files related to the Arlene
17 Roberts murder. I asked the King County Latent Lab to re-examine the latent
18 prints in this case that were collected in 1978. I was aware that since
19 the forming of the AFIS computer system technology and techniques have
20 developed to allow for a latent print to be entered into the system, where
21 previously they may not have met the criteria for quality or detail.

22 King County Latent Print Examiner Cynthia Zeller report to me that an AFIS
23 match had been made in this case. I was advised that a print matching that
24 of Ronald Wayne Macdonald was individualized to a latent print found on the
25 Traveler's Cheque that had been among the items ransacked and found near
Arlene Roberts' body. Since then two additional prints belonging to the
defendant have been located on the Oct. 5 bank statement and the Oct. 11
receipt that were found on to the floor of Mrs. Robert's trailer.

Once the print match was established, detectives began looking into the
background of Ronald Wayne Macdonald and found numerous burglary bookings in
several states.

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2 Detectives found a December 7th 1979 Sea/King entry by the then King County
3 Dept of Public Safety (Sheriff) showing an address for Macdonald at 10644
4 Rainier Ave S. This address is about seven blocks north of the victim's
5 residence.

6 Macdonald was booked into the King County Jail on Seattle Burglary charges on
7 June 2nd 1978 and again on August 21st of 1978. It should be noted that the
8 Seattle Police jurisdiction was within blocks of the victim's residence, and
9 if MacDonald was an active burglar he could be assumed to be committing
10 crimes in both jurisdictions.

11 In 1979 Macdonald was arrested for Burglary in the state of Florida.

12 MacDonald's record also indicates a February 1980 Burglary arrest in South
13 Dayton, Florida followed by an April 1980 arrest for marijuana by the Dayton
14 Beach Florida Police.

15 In the 1980's Macdonald did prison time in both the states of Florida and
16 Washington.

17 In 1992 and again in 2001 Macdonald's record shows arrests in Reno, Nevada.

18 Ronald Wayne Macdonald currently resides in Reno, Nevada.

19 On June 13th 2011 detectives from the King County Sheriff's Office Cold Case
20 Squad contacted Ron MacDonald in Reno, Nevada for the purpose of obtaining a
21 DNA sample and inked palm prints. During the contact MacDonald was
22 interviewed. In a post-Miranda recorded statement MacDonald admitted to
23 living in the Johnson residence at 10644 Rainier Ave S, just a few blocks
24 from Mrs. Roberts'. The Johnson's were friends of MacDonald's mother, and
25 later reported to the detectives that MacDonald frequently went out for long
periods at night for reasons unknown.

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1 MacDonald stated he had prior arrests for burglaries when he was in his late
2 teens and early 20's.

3 When asked, he denied he recognized a photo of the victim's trailer.
4 Further, he denied he had ever burglarized her trailer, stating all of his
5 burglaries were "always houses on Queen Anna hill."

6 When later questioned directly about murdering Mrs. Roberts, MacDonald
7 stated, "You, you want me to sit here and tell you I killed somebody?"

8 During the interview Ron MacDonald never definitely stated "'I did not do
9 this'". In fact he volunteered several times that he would prepare for the
10 extradition on murder charges and be ready to go back to Seattle within a
11 couple of days.

12 During the following exchange MacDonald had a strong reaction to the
13 possibility of seeing crime scene photos:

14 DET: I can. . .what I, what I planned to do and what I wanted to do
15 was kind of show you photos and have you walk me through the
16 scene and tell me how. . .

17 SUS: No (unintelligible)

18 DET: How, how you got in.

19
20 SUS: I don't want to see no photos. I don't want to say anything
21 else. You know, I just want to get every, all my stuff in order
22 and I'll be ready for extradition on Monday.

23 When I mentioned taking accountability and showing remorse for the murder,
24 MacDonald said, "Well I'll talk about that when I get back to Washington
25 State. I'll be ready to go whenever you guys tell me to. I'll be ready to go

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1 Monday morning." I then asked if there was a sexual assault on Mrs.
2 Roberts. MacDonald said, "I'll be ready to go Monday morning."

3
4 Eventually MacDonald said he would talk to his boss and his lawyer and
5 repeated he would be "ready to go whenever you guys tell me to." After
6 prints and DNA were taken he was walked to the public lobby.

7 I told him to talk to his attorney, and talk to his roommate, and try to get
8 some advice on how to move forward with this. Instead of walking out the
9 door, MacDonald sat down in the lobby and contemplated what to do.

10 We had an exchange back and forth and eventually I sat next to him. During
11 the exchange it was obvious from MacDonald's body language, speech, and heavy
12 sighs, that he was starting to grasp the weight of the situation.

13 I asked MacDonald, "Did you know her?" He said "No." I added, "I thought
14 she may have been a friend of your mom's." He again said, "No."

15 At one point, and not in response to any question, MacDonald said, "I was 17
16 years old. I was young and stupid."

17 I asked, why that trailer? There was no response from MacDonald.

18 At one point MacDonald said with a heavy sigh, "I need to go." I told he
19 him he could do whatever he wanted. He didn't leave, and remained seated.

20 I said to MacDonald, "You know, your DNA will have to go into a database.
21 Are there any other incidents out there like this?" MacDonald said, "No."

22 I asked, "Is this the reason you left Seattle?" MacDonald said, "No."
23 I said to MacDonald, "You know, she has no living relatives. There will be
24 no one there for her at trial". He responded, "I didn't know".
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1 I asked, "Did you ever just think about going to the police and turning
2 yourself in?" MacDonald responded, "No." He added, "I wish I could say I
3 did think of that, -but no."

4 Without being prompted, MacDonald said words to the effect of: I keep
5 screwing up my life, but it's big-time this time.

6 I asked MacDonald, "Do you want to go back inside, have a seat and talk about
7 this[the murder]?" He responded, "Isn't that what we're doing?"

8 I asked MacDonald, "Have you ever told anyone about this incident?" He
9 responded, "No."

10 I asked MacDonald if he was "remorseful." He said, "Of course I am."

11
12 At about 1700 hours Macdonald again said "I gotta go." He mentioned he
13 wanted to go have a cigarette. I asked if we could talk outside while he
14 smoked. He agreed.

15 MacDonald sat on the steps and lit a cigarette. I stood next to him across
16 the hand railing and Det Allen was behind us taking notes.

17 Recalling MacDonald's strong reaction to the suggestion of looking at the
18 crime scene photos during the interview within the detective's office, I said
19 "You did not want to look at those photos did you?" MacDonald responded,
20 "Of course not." I mentioned something to the effect of, that it "must have
21 been a hard thing to look at, is that why you covered her face?" MacDonald
22 did not respond. I added, "It's one of those things were right afterwards
23 you can't believe what you've done." Again, there was no response from
24 MacDonald.

25 MacDonald said that he could be ready to be extradited by Sunday. He
mentioned that he had borrowed money he needed to repay. I joked, "No,
now's the time to borrow more money". He laughed, but then seriously

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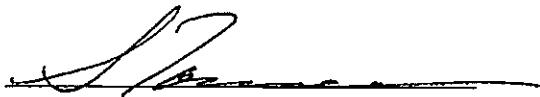
1 stated he would not do that because it's "not the kind of guy I am". He
2 added, "but then again, look at me....."

3 In regard to him not taking advantage of his friend's money, I told MacDonald
4 he was a good person, and people make mistakes. MacDonald buried his head
5 in his hands and started crying. I said, "You're going to feel a lot better
6 after you get this off your chest." MacDonald responded, "I know I am."

7 I asked if he thought this day [where he was caught for the murder] would
8 ever come. He said it had always been in the back of his mind.

9 I mentioned how living with that would have driven me crazy. MacDonald
10 responded, "It does. It's reoccurring again."

11 Under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington,
12 I certify that the foregoing is true and correct. Signed and dated
13 By me this 15th day of September, 2011, at Kent, Washington.

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W 554 King County Courthouse
Seattle, Washington 98104-2312
(206) 296-9000

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2 CAUSE NO. 11-1-07742-6 SEA

3 PROSECUTING ATTORNEY CASE SUMMARY AND REQUEST FOR BAIL AND/OR
4 CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

5 The State incorporates by reference the Certification for Determination of Probable
6 Cause in King County Sheriff's Office incident number 78-177794.

7 REQUEST FOR BAIL

8 The State requests bail in the amount of \$2,000,000. The defendant brutally attacked a
9 stranger, an elderly woman who weighed less than 100 pounds, in her own home. She was
10 seriously beaten, tied up, and strangled. The defendant lives in Reno, Nevada, and appears to
11 have no ties to Washington. Apart from multiple felony convictions, he has a long history of
12 arrests ranging from drug offenses and public disturbance to battery and contempt of court. He
13 told detectives he would soon plead guilty to a recent Driving Under the Influence charge in
14 Nevada.

15 Signed this ____ day of September, 2011.

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K. Richardson
Kristin V. Richardson, WSBA #19042

SUPERFORM

CCN/JCN NUMBER	B/A NUMBER	PCN NUMBER
AGENCY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNINCORPORATED KING COUNTY 7 8 - 1 7 7 7 9 4 FILE NUMBER		
<input type="checkbox"/> CITY OF CASE NUMBER		
<input type="checkbox"/> FELONY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MISDEMEANOR COURT		

SUBJECT DATA	DATE OF ARREST/TIME		BOOKING DATE/TIME		ARREST LOCATION		
	NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE JR., SR.) MACDONALD, RONALD WAYNE					ALIAS, NICKNAMES	
	IDENTITY IN DOUBT?	DOB	SEX	RACE	HGT	WGT	EYES
	No	10/30/1960	M	W	6'1"	160	GRN
	SCARS, MARKS, TATOOS, DEFORMITIES					HAIR	
						BRO	
						SKIN TONE	
						No	
	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS					CITY	
	STATE					ZIP	
OFFENSE DATA	RESIDENCE PHONE		BUSINESS PHONE		CITIZENSHIP		
	OCCUPATION		EMPLOYER, SCHOOL (ADDRESS, SHOP/UNION NUMBER)		SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		
	LABOR		MILL STREET TIRE				
	DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER		STATE	APIS #	FBI #	STATE ID #	
	VEHICLE LICENSE #		STATE	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	
	VEHICLE LOCATION		TOW COMPANY				
	PERSON TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY		RELATIONSHIP	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	
	PHONE						
	1) OFFENSE		RCW/ORD #		COURT/CAU #		
	<input type="checkbox"/> DV Murder 1		9A.32.030				
PROPERTY	2) OFFENSE		RCW/ORD #		COURT/CAU #		
	<input type="checkbox"/> DV						
	3) OFFENSE		RCW/ORD #		COURT/CAU #		
	<input type="checkbox"/> DV						
	4) OFFENSE		RCW/ORD #		COURT/CAU #		
	<input type="checkbox"/> DV						
	DATE TIME OF VIOLATION		CRIMINAL TRAFFIC CITE ATTACHED?		ACCOMPLICES		
			No				
	LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY LEFT FOR ARRESTEE AT JAIL						
	LIST VALUABLE ITEMS OR PROPERTY ENTERED INTO EVIDENCE						
OTHER	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IF YES DESCRIBE (SIMPLE DESCRIPTION, IDENTIFYING MARKS, SERIAL#)						
	TOTAL CASH OF ARRESTEE		WAS CASH TAKEN INTO EVIDENCE?		SIGNATURE OF JAIL STAFF RECEIVING ITEMS/SERIAL #		
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		AMOUNT		
	ARRESTING OFFICER/SERIAL #		TRANSPORTING OFFICER/SERIAL #		SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE/SERIAL #		
	SUPERFORM COMPLETED BY (SIGNATURE/SERIAL #)		CONTACT PERSON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (NAME/SERIAL #/PHONE)				
	Tompkins, Scott A / 02827		Tompkins 206 / 205-7810				
	MISDEMEANOR BOOKINGS: Complete to this line. FELONY BOOKINGS: Complete both sides.						
	OBJECTION TO RELEASE (MISDEMEANOR OR FELON IS ON REVERSE SIDE)						
	SUPERIOR COURT		<input type="checkbox"/> IN CUSTODY		COURT CAUSE (STAMP OR WRITE)		
	FILING INFO.		<input type="checkbox"/> AT LARGE		11-1-07742-6SEA		
<input type="checkbox"/> OUT ON BOND							
COURT/DIST		DIST CT.					
CT.NO.		BOND \$		SUP. CT. DATE			
WARRANT DATE		OFF CODE OFFENSE		AMOUNT OF BAIL			
				\$			
POLICE AGENCY ISSUING		COURT		WARRANT RELEASED TO SERIAL UNIT			
PERSON APPROVING EXTRADITION		SEAKING-LOCAL ONLY		NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE			
		WACIC-STATE WIDE		FROM ID OR ONLY			
		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			
		NCIC WILL EXTRADITE FROM		NCIC-WILL EXTRADITE			
		OR, ID, MT, WY, CA, NV, UT,		FROM ALL 50 STATES			
		CO, AZ, NM, HI, AK		<input type="checkbox"/>			
CCN# 0318086		DOE		DOC			
WAC#		TOE		TOC			
NIC#		OP#		OP#			